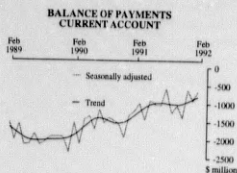


Statistics Weekly

Thursday, 9 April 1992

The week in statistics ...

- ☐ All main components help current account deficit fall in February 2
- ☐ Canberra tops housing price rises 3
- ☐ Private sector lifts job vacancies 4
- ☐ Import prices keep rising 5
- ☐ Country classification revised 5
- ☐ The Australian labour market — 1991 in review 6
- ☐ Over 300,000 workers hold more than one job 7
- ☐ Fertility trends analysed 8
- ☐ Commercial finance in brief ... 8
- ☐ Australian perspectives 9
- ☐ Census '91: First Queensland figures 10
- ☐ All the week's releases 10
- ☐ Calendar of key releases up to 21 April 11
- ☐ The latest ...
 - key State indicators 11
 - key national indicators 12



All main components help current account deficit fall in February

The seasonally adjusted deficit of Australia's balance of payments current account was \$667 million in February 1992, down \$237 million or more than 26 per cent on the previous month. All the main current account aggregates contributed to this outcome.

The surplus recorded in the balance on goods and services rose \$121 million to \$343 million. This result was due to a larger surplus in the balance on merchandise trade, which rose \$111 million to \$513 million (merchandise exports and imports rose 4 and 2 per cent respectively) and a lower net services deficit, down \$10 million to \$170 million.

The net income deficit fell 7 per cent to \$1,208 million.

The net unrequited transfers surplus rose 17 per cent to \$198 million.

BALANCE OF PAYMENTS, CURRENT ACCOUNT
\$ million

	January 1992		February 1992	
	Original	Seasonally adjusted	Original	Seasonally adjusted
Balance on merchandise trade	273	402	692	513
Net services	-134	-180	52	-170
Balance on goods and services	139	222	744	343
Net income	-1,356	-1,295	-1,267	-1,208
Net unrequited transfers	149	169	206	198
Balance on current account	-1,068	-904	-317	-667

Details of the balance on merchandise trade in original terms are as follows.

Merchandise exports rose \$276 million, or 6 per cent, to \$4,622 million. Within this total, rural exports rose \$45 million or 4 per cent due to rises in:

- cereals, up \$31 million or 15 per cent;
- wool, up \$18 million or 6 per cent; and
- meat, up \$17 million or 7 per cent.

Partly offsetting falls were recorded in sugar, down \$19 million and 'other' rural exports, down \$2 million.

Non-rural exports rose \$231 million or 7 per cent. The largest rises occurred in:

- 'other' manufactures, up \$77 million or 20 per cent;
- gold, up \$67 million or 21 per cent;
- transport equipment, up \$49 million or 52 per cent; and
- metal ores and minerals, up \$38 million or 6 per cent.

Continued ...

The largest fall in non-rural exports occurred in coal, coke and briquettes, down \$29 million or 4 per cent.

Merchandise imports fell \$143 million or 4 per cent. The largest falls occurred in:

- machinery, down \$53 million or 5 per cent;
- chemicals, down \$40 million or 8 per cent; and
- 'other' imports, down \$29 million, or 13 per cent;

Partly offsetting rises occurred in road vehicles, up \$38 million (10%) and 'other' transport equipment, up \$13 million (18%).

The current account deficit for the eight months to February 1992 was \$8,051 million, down \$4,156 million or 34 per cent on the deficit for the eight months to February 1991.

For further information, order the publication *Balance of Payments, Australia* (5301.0), or contact Alan Puckeridge on (06) 252 6689 or Neil Batty on (06) 252 5540.

Canberra tops housing price rises

Canberra's house prices are increasing at a higher rate than any of the other capital cities. Figures released for the December quarter 1991 show that Canberra recorded a rise of 2.8 per cent in the price of established houses, followed by Brisbane (2.3%) and Darwin (1.8%). The established house price index for Australia rose by only 0.1 per cent during the same period. Increases occurred in all capitals except Melbourne and Perth (down 1.8% and 0.7% respectively).

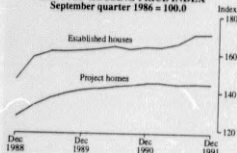
For the second successive quarter, the increase in Canberra's project homes index was significantly greater than for the other capitals with a 4.5 per cent rise for the December quarter. The next largest rise was in Hobart (0.4%). The index for Australia fell by 0.1 per cent, with small increases in most cities and decreases in Sydney (0.7%) and Perth (0.7%).

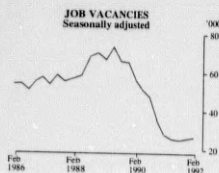
HOUSING PRICES, DECEMBER QUARTER 1991
Percentage change

	Established houses		Project homes	
	From previous quarter	From corresponding quarter of previous year	From previous quarter	From corresponding quarter of previous year
Sydney	0.3	5.4	-0.7	-0.1
Melbourne	-1.8	-0.5	0.2	-1.2
Brisbane	2.3	12.6	0.2	0.6
Adelaide	1.3	1.0	0.3	1.3
Perth	-0.7	-1.6	-0.7	-2.9
Hobart	1.4	4.9	0.4	2.9
Darwin	1.8	5.3	0.0	2.0
Canberra	2.8	15.5	4.5	12.6
Weighted average of eight capital cities	0.1	4.2	-0.1	-0.3

For further information, order the publication *House Price Indexes: Eight Capital Cities* (6416.0), or contact Ian Buchanan on (06) 252 5754.

SELECTED HOUSING PRICE INDEX
September quarter 1986 = 100.0





Private sector lifts job vacancies

The estimated number of job vacancies continued the upturn of the previous quarter with an increase of 3.1 per cent to 26,600 (seasonally adjusted) in the three months to February 1992.

Private sector vacancies in February 1992 were 19,100 in original terms — a rise of 16.8 per cent since November 1991. In contrast the public sector vacancies, which had created the previous quarter's overall rise, were 8,500 — a slight fall from the November 1991 estimate of 8,600.

Strong rises in vacancies in New South Wales and Victoria and a smaller rise in Queensland more than offset declining vacancies in the other States and Territories.

In the twelve months to February 1992, the number of job vacancies declined by 4.5 per cent despite the recent improvement.

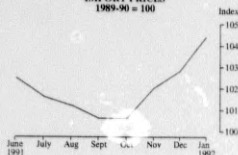
The job vacancy rate (the number of job vacancies expressed as a percentage of the number of employees plus job vacancies) for Australia rose to 0.46 per cent compared with 0.42 per cent for November 1991 and 0.52 per cent for February 1991.

JOB VACANCIES

	At 15 November 1991 To nearest 100	At 21 February 1992 To nearest 100	Percentage change
Original —			
Private sector	16,300	19,100	16.8
Public sector	8,600	8,500	-1.0
<i>All sectors</i>	<i>24,900</i>	<i>27,600</i>	<i>10.7</i>
New South Wales	7,800	10,600	36.3
Victoria	5,200	6,700	27.6
Queensland	4,900	5,300	8.8
South Australia	2,100	1,500	-27.8
Western Australia	2,300	1,400	-40.0
Tasmania	600	600	-2.8
Northern Territory	500	400	-19.8
Australian Capital Territory	1,600	1,200	-28.3
<i>Australia</i>	<i>24,900</i>	<i>27,600</i>	<i>10.7</i>
Seasonally adjusted —			
<i>Australia</i>	<i>25,800</i>	<i>26,600</i>	<i>3.1</i>

In seasonally adjusted terms, the percentage of employees working overtime in February 1992 increased by 2.9 per cent to 16.16 per cent and the estimate of average weekly overtime hours per employee working overtime increased by 3.0 per cent to 6.95 hours.

IMPORT PRICES
1989-90 = 100



Import prices keep rising

The Import Price Index increased by 1.6 per cent in January 1992.

The continuing fall in the value of the Australian dollar in January contributed to increases for a wide range of index components, the most significant of which was machinery and transport equipment.

These increases were partly offset by price decreases for other components such as petroleum and petroleum products and office and automatic data processing machines.

IMPORT PRICES, JANUARY 1992

Selected items	Percentage change from previous month
Other commodities and transactions	6.4
Animal and vegetable oils	3.4
Miscellaneous manufactured articles	2.5
Manufactured goods	2.4
Machinery and transport equipment	2.3
Food and live animals	1.6
Chemical products	0.6
Crude materials	-0.3
Mineral fuels, lubricants	-6.9
All items	1.6

For further information, order the publication *Import Price Index, Australia (6414.0)*, or contact Geoff Brown on (06) 252 5348.

Country classification revised

The *Australian Standard Classification of Countries for Social Statistics (ASCCSS)* has been revised to reflect recent political changes in the former USSR, the Baltic States, and the former Yugoslavian republics of Croatia and Slovenia.

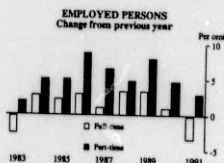
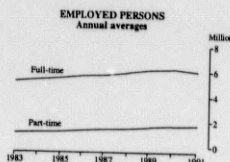
The ASCCSS, which was published in October 1990, was developed to collect, aggregate and disseminate, in a standard manner, Australian statistical data relating to personal characteristics, such as country of birth or country of residence.

Amendments to the ASCCSS resulting from these events are detailed in Revision 1.02 of the classification available as hard copy (Cat. 1269.0, Rev. 1.02, free), and are incorporated in the floppy disk product (Cat. 1270.0). The revision also includes a number of other amendments.

To ensure that the ASCCSS remains an Australian standard, its users are urged to implement the changes detailed in Revision 1.02 in their statistical work. Use of the national standard will enhance the comparability of statistics produced and used by government departments and other organisations.

For further information, order the publication *Australian Standard Classification of Countries for Social Statistics (1269.0)*, or contact Dr Siu-Ming Tam on (06) 252 6300.

The Australian labour market — 1991 in review



The Australian labour market weakened considerably during 1991. Compared with 1990, average employment fell by 158,900 (2.0%) with full-time employment decreasing by 209,900. Male employment fell by 129,700 (2.8%) with a fall of 163,700 in full-time employment being partly offset by a rise of 34,100 in part-time employment. For females, total employment fell by 29,200 (0.9%) with full-time employment falling by 46,200.

The average number of unemployed persons in 1991 rose by 233,900 (39.8%) to 821,000 mainly due to an increase of 213,300 in the number of persons seeking full-time work. The rise in unemployment was associated with an increase in the average unemployment rate from 6.9 per cent in 1990 to 9.6 per cent in 1991.

These findings are drawn from the monthly Labour Force Survey, full details of which are published in *The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0).

CIVILIAN LABOUR FORCE ESTIMATES
Annual averages

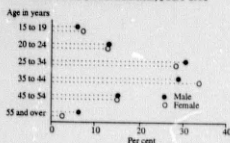
	1990	1991	Difference
Employment ('000)	7872.1	7713.2	- 158.9
Full time	6209.0	5999.1	- 209.9
Part time	1663.0	1714.1	51.1
Unemployment ('000)	587.1	821.0	233.9
Full time	467.5	680.8	213.3
Part time	119.6	140.1	20.5
Unemployment rate (%)	6.9	9.6	2.7 pts
Participation rate (%)	63.8	63.3	- 0.5 pts

Other findings on the 1991 labour market compared with 1990 include:

- ❑ The average male unemployment rate rose by 3.1 percentage points to 9.9 per cent and for females, it rose by 2.0 percentage points to 9.2 per cent.
- ❑ The average participation rate for males fell from 75.7 per cent to 74.8 per cent while for females, it fell from 52.2 per cent to 52.0 per cent.
- ❑ Although males averaged some 24 per cent of total part-time employment in 1991, they accounted for 67 per cent of the increase in part-time employment between 1990 and 1991.
- ❑ The average duration of unemployment increased from 40.2 weeks in 1990 to 41.1 weeks in 1991.
- ❑ The average number of long term unemployed (i.e. persons unemployed for 52 weeks or more) increased by 94 per cent to 108,600.
- ❑ There was an increase of 147,400 in the number of job losers. In contrast, the number of persons who left their job voluntarily increased by 16,600.

For further information, order the publication *The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0), or contact Heather Crawford on (06) 252 6525.

MULTIPLE JOBBOLDERS, JULY 1991



Over 300,000 workers hold more than one job

The number of multiple jobholders has increased by nearly 80 per cent, from 185,900 in August 1979 to 331,600 in July 1991. As a proportion of employed persons, this is a rise from 3.1 per cent in August 1979 to 4.3 per cent in July 1991.

Between 1983 and 1991 the proportion of employees who held more than one job increased in all industries except the construction industry.

Almost one-third (31%) of the 331,600 multiple jobholders worked in the community services industry in their main job. In contrast, only 2 per cent worked in the construction industry in their main job.

Of those multiple job holders whose main job was in the community services industry, 45 per cent had their second job in the same industry.

MULTIPLE JOBBOLDERS

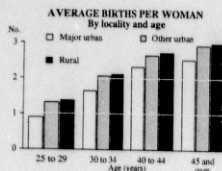
Industry of main job	Percentage of employed persons			
	August 1979	August 1983	August 1987	July 1991
Community services	4.1	4.3	5.6	7.3
Recreation, personal and other services	4.2	3.7	4.8	6.3
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	4.2	3.7	4.2	4.7
Finance, property and business services	3.4	3.3	3.7	4.6
Public administration and defence	3.5	3.2	4.7	4.2
Wholesale and retail trade	2.6	2.4	3.0	3.4
Transport and storage	2.3	2.1	2.1	2.8
Manufacturing	2.4	1.8	2.9	2.7
Construction	1.9	1.9	1.7	1.5
Other	3.2	2.4	4.1	3.8
Total	3.1	2.8	3.7	4.3

Of multiple jobholders who were wage and salary earners in both jobs, 83 per cent of married males worked full time in their main job. In comparison, 76 per cent of married females worked part time in their main job.

Of those employees whose weekly earnings were less than \$160 per week in their main job, 59 per cent earned less than \$60 in their second job. For employees whose weekly earnings were more than \$520 per week in their main job, 45 per cent received more than \$120 per week in their second job.

Australian born workers comprised the great majority (80%) of multiple jobholders. Of the overseas born, just over half (52%) were born in the main English speaking countries.

Most multiple jobholders were in the 25 to 44 age group with almost one-third (31%) aged 35 to 44 and a further 29 per cent aged 25 to 34.



Fertility trends analysed

The average number of children ever born to women who had ever been married declined by about 6 per cent overall between 1971 and 1986 (from 2.54 to 2.39 children per woman). This decrease in fertility occurred in every age group of women up to 50 years reflecting an increase in childlessness and a decrease in the proportion of women having more than three children.

For women aged 50 to 69 years, the average number of children ever born was higher at the 1986 Census than at other recent censuses. This reflected higher fertility among the women in this age range born in the period 1916 to 1936. Those born in the mid 1930s, for example would have contributed to the high fertility of the late 1950s and early 1960s when they were in their twenties.

These data are drawn from the Australian Bureau of Statistics publication *Fertility in Australia* which describes patterns of childbirth using 1986 and earlier census information and shows how these patterns vary with socio-economic differences such as age, marital status, education, birthplace and labour force status.

FERTILITY OF EVER MARRIED WOMEN

Age (years)	Average number of children ever born				Percentage change	
	1971	1976	1981	1986	1971 to 1986	1981 to 1986
15 to 19	0.62	0.54	0.53	0.56	-9.7	5.7
20 to 24	0.95	0.86	0.79	0.75	-21.1	-5.1
25 to 29	1.82	1.67	1.50	1.38	-24.2	-8.0
30 to 34	2.65	2.39	2.16	2.04	-23.0	-5.6
35 to 39	3.06	2.89	2.55	2.36	-22.9	-7.5
40 to 44	3.10	3.14	2.90	2.58	-16.8	-11.0
45 to 49	2.98	3.10	3.10	2.87	-2.7	-7.4
50 to 54	2.83	2.94	3.07	3.06	8.1	-0.3
55 to 59	2.70	2.80	2.91	3.04	12.6	4.5
60 to 64	2.63	2.67	2.78	2.88	9.5	3.6
65 to 69	2.65	2.60	2.66	2.75	3.8	3.4
70 and over	3.03	2.77	2.63	2.59	-14.5	-1.5
Total aged 15 years and over	2.54	2.49	2.43	2.39	-5.9	-1.7

For further information, order the publication *Fertility in Australia* (2514.0), or contact Abbas Adam on (06) 252 6026.

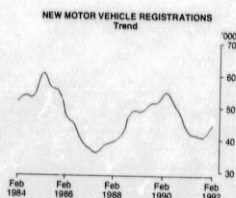
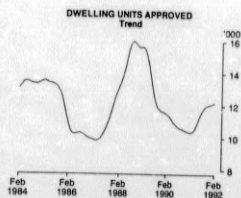
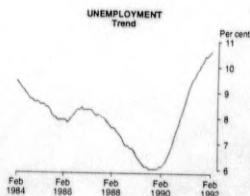
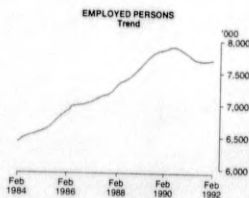
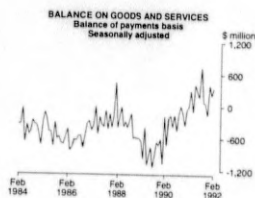
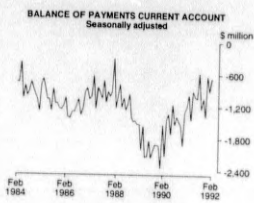
Commercial finance in brief ...

Total commercial finance commitments made by significant lenders in January 1992 totalled \$5,946.2 million, 11.2 per cent less than in December 1991 and 35.4 per cent less than in January 1991. It should be noted that while January 1992 and January 1991 were both five week reporting periods for some banks, December 1991 was a four week reporting period. Commitments under fixed loan facilities were down by 31.2 per cent on December 1991 to \$2,001.8 million. New and increased limits under revolving credit facilities amounted to \$3,944.4 million, an increase of 4.2 per cent over December 1991.

Source: *Commercial Finance, Australia, January 1992* (5643.0).

Australian perspectives

Australian perspectives is an occasional series of selected graphs. The series displayed illustrate the latest published data.



Inquiries

The ABS supplies a wide range of statistical information:

- ☐ through its bookshops
- ☐ by mail order (including subscription)
- ☐ by facsimile
- ☐ electronically.

To order any of the publications that appear in *Statistics Weekly* or to inquire about the statistics and services available from the ABS, contact Information Services at any of the offices listed below. An Information Consultancy Service in each office provides assistance of a more extensive or complex nature.

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Suggestions

Any suggestions for improvement to this publication should be addressed to:

Robert Nixon
Editor
Statistics Weekly
(06) 252 6104

Statistics Weekly
9 April 1992

Census '91: First Queensland figures

Preliminary data from the 1991 Census (6 August 1991) is now available for Queensland. Highlights include:

- The total number of people counted in Queensland was 2,978,617. This figure represents a 15.1 per cent increase in the census count of the State since the 1986 Census.
- The sex ratio of the Queensland population in 1991 was 99.2 males to 100 females, compared with 100.3 males to 100 females in 1986.

Source: *First Counts for Statistical Local Areas: Queensland, 1991 Census of Population and Housing* (2701.3).

All the week's releases: 1 to 7 April

General

Publications Advice, 3 April 1992 (1105.0; free)
Publications Advice, 7 April 1992 (1105.0; free)
Australian Standard Classification of Countries for Social Statistics (ASCCSS), 1990 (Second Revised Edition) (1269.0; free)
Statistics Weekly, 2 April 1992 (1318.0; \$4.20)
Time Series Service — Manual, December Qtr 1991 (1336.0; \$20.00)
Pocket Year Book of SA, 1992 (1302.4; \$8.50)

Demography

Overseas Arrivals and Departures, Aust., January 1992 (3401.0; \$6.50)

National accounts, finance and foreign trade

Balance of Payments, Aust., February 1992 (5301.0; \$16.00)
Commercial Finance, Aust., January 1992 (5643.0; \$6.00)
State Estimates of Private New Capital Expenditure, December Qtr 1991 (5646.0; \$10.50)
Common Funds, Aust., December Qtr 1991 (5657.0; \$10.50)
Annual Statistics on Financial Institutions, 1991-92 (5661.0; free)
— new issue

Labour statistics and prices

Job Vacancies and Overtime, Aust., February 1992 (6354.0; \$12.00)
Import Price Index, Aust., January 1992 (6414.0; \$8.00)
House Price Indexes: Eight Capital Cities, December Qtr 1991 (6416.0; \$27.00)
The Labour Force, Qld, February 1992 (6201.3; \$16.00)

Secondary industry and distribution

Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Household Appliances and Electrical Equipment, January 1992 (8357.0; \$8.00)
Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Clothing and Footwear, January 1992 (8358.0; \$10.50)
Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Fibres, Yarns, Fabrics, Bedding and Floor Coverings, January 1992 (8360.0; \$10.50)
Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Building Materials and Fittings, January 1992 (8361.0; \$8.00)
Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Metal Products, January 1992 (8367.0; \$6.00)

Secondary industry and distribution — continued

Building Approvals, NSW, February 1992 (8731.1; \$10.50)

Building Activity, NSW, December Qtr 1991 (8752.1; \$10.50)

Dwelling Unit Commencements Reported by Approving Authorities, Vic., January 1992 (8741.2; \$10.50)

Building Approvals, Qld, February 1992 (8731.3; \$10.50)

Dwelling Unit Commencements Reported by Approving Authorities, WA, January 1992 (8741.5; \$10.50)

Building Activity, WA, December Qtr 1991 (8752.5; \$10.50)

Dwelling Unit Commencements Reported by Approving Authorities, Tas., January 1992 (8741.6; \$5.00)

Building Activity, NT, December Qtr 1991 (8752.7; \$8.00)

Transport

Motor Vehicle Registrations, Qld, February 1992 (9303.3; \$10.50)

Calendar of key releases

Expected releases over the fortnight to 21 April 1992

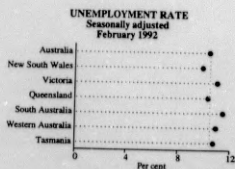
April

- 9** The Labour Force, Australia, March 1992, Preliminary (6202.0; \$10.50)
 The Labour Force, Australia — Preliminary Data on Floppy Disk, March 1992 (6271.0; \$65.00)
 Retail Trade, Australia, February 1992 (8501.0; \$10.50)

- 16** Export Price Index, Australia, February 1992 (6405.0; \$8.00)

The latest ...

Changes to key State indicators — consolidated to 7 April 1992

Statistics Weekly
9 April 1992

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
— Percentage change from same period previous year —									
New capital expenditure (Dec. qtr 91)*	-25.6	-17.7	-10.8	-3.6	1.1	-51.4	n.a.	n.a.	-17.4
Retail turnover (Jan. 92) (trend estimate)	3.7	2.0	4.9	-0.8	6.9	3.7	n.a.	11.2	3.6
New motor vehicle registrations (Feb. 92)†	-4.1	14.4	5.6	1.6	10.1	8.4	30.1	-15.9	3.8
Number of dwelling unit approvals (Feb. 92)	13.0	10.0	29.2	-17.2	8.0	8.4	187.7	135.3	16.2
Value of total building work done (Sept. qtr 91)	-10.1	-34.2	-7.1	-24.4	-18.7	8.6	-9.6	0.5	-17.2
Employed persons (Feb. 92)*	-1.0	-3.5	2.8	-3.8	-0.1	-2.6	5.7	-0.3	-1.1
Capital city consumer price index (Dec. qtr 91)	1.5	1.7	1.8	1.8	-0.1	1.8	1.6	1.7	1.5
Average weekly earnings (full-time adult ordinary time) (Nov. 91)	4.7	4.1	3.0	5.3	4.3	3.0	4.8	4.0	4.2
Population (June 91)	1.3	1.1	2.2	1.2	2.0	0.9	1.0	2.9	1.5
Room nights in licensed hotels and motels, etc. (Sept. qtr 91)	-0.9	2.2	11.4	-1.5	3.7	-1.0	0.4	-5.7	3.1

* Seasonally adjusted except for NT and ACT. † Seasonally adjusted except for Tas., NT and ACT.

Key national indicators – consolidated to 7 April 1992

		Latest figure available		Percentage change (a) on		
		Original	Seasonally adjusted	Previous period	Corresponding period last year	
Period						
National production						
Gross domestic product (A) — 1984-85 prices	\$m	Dec. qtr 91	n.a.	64,075	0.3	-0.5
Industrial activity						
New capital expenditure — current prices	\$m	Dec. qtr 91	6,253	5,696	-12.6	-17.7
Expected new capital expenditure — 1984-85 prices	"	Six months to June 92	4,921	4,487	-11.4	-14.5
Retail turnover — current prices (e)	"	Jan. 92	11,732	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
New motor vehicle registrations — 1984-85 prices (e)	"	Dec. qtr 91	7,642	7,853	3.8	4.8
Dwelling unit approvals	no.	Feb. 92	17,320	13,356	-0.8	1.0
Value of all building approvals	"	Feb. 92	41,089	44,624	-3.5	3.8
Value of total building work done	\$m	Feb. 92	11,453	11,882	-7.4	13.8
— current prices	"	"	1,555	1,751	-0.8	-18.9
— 1984-85 prices	"	Sept. qtr 91	6,026	5,825	-8.2	-17.2
Manufacturers' sales — current prices	"	Dec. qtr 91	3,828	3,701	-7.8	-16.8
— 1984-85 prices	"	"	36,551	34,813	-0.9	-3.4
Expected manufacturers' sales	"	Six months to June 92	25,478	24,215	-1.0	-2.8
	"	"	69,535	n.a.	n.a.	-3.2
Labour						
Employed persons (e)	'000	Feb. 92	7,650.9	7,705.5	-0.2	-1.1
Unemployment rate † (e)	%	"	11.5	10.5	0.2	1.9
Participation rate † (e)	"	"	63.5	63.2	-0.1	-0.4
Job vacancies	'000	Feb. 92	27.6	26.6	3.1	-4.5
Average weekly overtime per employee	hours	"	1.10	1.12	5.7	-6.3
Prices, profits and wages						
Consumer price index	1980-81 = 100.0	Dec. qtr 91	217.7	n.a.	0.9	1.5
Price index of materials used in manufacturing industries	1984-85 = 100.0	Jan. 92	120.9	n.a.	-0.2	-3.7
Price index of articles produced by manufacturing industry	1988-89 = 100.0	Jan. 92	111.6	n.a.	-0.1	-0.3
Company profits before income tax	\$m	Sept. qtr 91	2,982	2,841	21.2	-17.9
Average weekly earnings (Full-time adults; ordinary time)	\$	Nov. 91	578.80	n.a.	2.0	4.2
Interest rates (b) (monthly average)						
90-day bank bills †	% per annum	Feb. 92	7.50	n.a.	-0.05	-4.15
10-year Treasury bonds †	"	"	10.00	n.a.	-0.10	-1.55
Balance of payments						
Exports of merchandise	\$m	Feb. 92	4,622	4,645	4.3	5.4
Imports of merchandise	"	"	3,930	4,132	2.0	-1.8
Balance on merchandise trade (c)	"	"	692	513	27.6	159.1
Balance of goods and services (c)	"	"	744	343	54.5	n.a.
Balance on current account (c)	"	"	-317	-667	26.2	44.2
Terms of trade (d)	1984-85 = 100.0	Dec. qtr 91	n.a.	97.1	-2.9	-4.5
Foreign investment						
Net foreign debt	\$m	31 Dec. 91	144,772	n.a.	2.7	7.6
Net foreign liabilities	"	"	194,273	n.a.	4.3	10.5
Exchange rates (monthly average)						
US\$	per \$A	Feb. 92	0.7519	n.a.	0.5	-4.1
Trade weighted index	May 1970 = 100.0	"	56.2	n.a.	1.4	-1.9
Other indicators						
Population (resident at end of qtr)	million	June 91	17.3	n.a.	0.3	1.5
Overseas visitor arrivals	'000	Jan. 92	196	206	9.7	8.6

(a) Based on seasonally adjusted figures where available. (b) Source: Reserve Bank of Australia. (c) For percentage changes, a minus sign indicates an increase in the deficit; no sign means a decrease in the deficit or an increase in the surplus. (d) The ratio of the price of goods and services for exports to that for imports. (e) Later figures expected to be released Thursday, 9 April 1992.

NOTES: † = change is shown in terms of percentage points. n.a. = not available.

Figures have been taken from a variety of ABS publications. Copies may be obtained from Information Services (see page 10).

Some of the figures shown are preliminary, some final, and some are revisions of previously published figures. Users should check the latest relevant publication or with the ABS Information Services if the status of the statistic is important.

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